

A. EICHMANN

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S E C R E T

NFVA 2134

2 May 1961

TO: [ ]  
FROM: [ ]  
SUBJ: Adolf EICHMANN Trial  
REF: NFVA 2027, 16 March 1961

1. On 1 May 1961 [ ] visited Beit Ha'am, Jerusalem, and the trial of Adolf EICHMANN as a guest of [ ]. The group consisted of [ ].

[ ] a man of perhaps 30, with a sandy brown beard and mustache, a haircut which resembles a crew cut, and a prominent colorless wart just in front of one of his ears. [ ] remarked that [ ] was soon to be assigned abroad.

2. Arrangements for the visit had been in the making for several weeks, but only firmed up on 29 April. [ ] had seen some of the various communications on whether the Embassy should attend the trial. First, the Embassy had hesitated to apply for space for an official representative. Then the Embassy did apply. It was later decided to attend on a "now and then" basis. It was then decided, in coordination with the British, not to send official observers. Later, VOA requested in a properly coordinated request, that the Embassy recommend someone to cover the trial for VOA. In the meantime a "Dear John/Dear Armin" letter had been received (see NFVA 2133, 2 May 1961) in which apparently any visitor at all from the Embassy was prohibited.

3. When [ ] checked out with the Charge on his way to Jerusalem, the Charge was insistent [ ] wait until the letter could be found. After 45 minutes of search, the Charge let [ ] go on, with the understanding that [ ] would use his own judgement but would avoid attending the trial, lest he be recognized, and the further understanding that the Charge would call [ ] office if the "Dear John (Shaw)" letter allowed any loopholes. (There was no phone call. Mr. SHAW later admitted that he thought there was a loophole, but the Charge apparently did not, so did not call).

4. When [ ] finally left the Embassy, it was 1220. [ ] took [ ] car, to see what was wrong with it, and arrived in Jerusalem 5 minutes late for a 1330 lunch. After a brief call on [ ] where [ ] was waiting, [ ] and [ ] had a pleasant lunch, and were then joined by [ ]

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The four went to Beit Ha'am. [ ] had a tourist pass (which is attached), and showed his passport at the gate. He then went through a booth where a police officer gave him a perfunctory frisking. Since this was done to all other members of the group, [ ] did not object. His pocket knife caused the policeman a brief moment of concern.

5. [ ] then led the group on a tour of the installation: restaurant, snack bar, airconditioning room, archives, reproduction room (the lag between the word spoken in the court, and the printed sheet - in Hebrew, English, French, or German - is about two hours), one of the 12 TV camera positions, the local telephone center, the international telephone center, the post office, the teletype room, the gallery of the court room, and the press room. [ ] was in shirt sleeves, and blended in very well with the Israelis, both officials and journalists. In the event a situation had arisen in which he had to be introduced, he was to be introduced by his first and middle names.

6. The group, less [ ] who had a meeting, spent most of its time in the press room. The room has four TV screens (plus an extra one in Reuters own room), which show the court room. The 12 TV cameras feed into a van outside the building, where a director watches 12 screens, selecting the one he wants to show in the press room. The cameras are partially hidden, although the locations are quite obvious in the court room. Around the wall of the press room are plugs for 110V/60 cycle and 220V/50 cycle current, for tape recorders, along with jumpers leading into selection boxes for the various simultaneous translations. The selector can be set for Hebrew (i.e., the court room itself), German, French, or English. Along with the boxes leading to the tape recorders there are selector boxes with earphones. There are also portable transistorized receivers which correspondents can wear, and these too carry the four languages.

7. The translations seemed good, with only occasional falterings for words. The German seemed excellent, the French as far as accent went seemed very clear, and the English was good. The translators, incidentally, sit in boxes on the gallery level of the court room, in glassed-in cubicles, while the tape recorders for the various languages are opposite them. These tapes are then taken to the typing section which prepares typed copies for reproduction. There is also an official photo service, which takes, posts, and sells photos to all correspondents.

8. When the trial is over, the installation will be turned over to the Government Tourist Corporation for use for conventions. The portable radios, the microphones and lines, the press room, etc., - in fact the whole system for simultaneous translation - will be turned over intact.

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9. In view of the flurry about [ ] attending, it was amusing to be told that of the three organizations which were taping the whole trial, VOA was one. It was there in the transparent guise of a "free lancer," but as [ ] pointed out, there were no free lancers at the trial, none were allowed, and the other reporters would almost certainly see through any such story. Moreover, all the equipment used by the group was labeled "Property of VOA."

10. The effectiveness of security precautions was hard to estimate, but to [ ] they seemed porous. Each day 100 tourists visit the court room, 50 for the morning session, and 50 for the afternoon. To obtain tickets, application has to be made at the Tourist Information Office, where a passport can serve as identification. At the actual entrance, the ticket and passport are again checked (but tickets can be forged, especially since used tickets are not collected). The search for weapons is cursory - or at least was cursory in [ ] case.

11. The area around the building is protected by a double fence of wire mesh, quite high, and is flood-lighted. The outer cordon of guards consists of border police, with regular police on the inner guard detail. Some of these police are in uniform, some in plainclothes. There are of course policewomen, to handle searching of female visitors. At least some of the roofs had border policemen on them.

12. The predominant impressions of the trial for [ ] at least were the efficiency with which the mechanics of the trial were being handled; the dignity of the court and the related proceedings (for example, use of the trial by travel agents to promote tourism has been prevented); and the startling insignificance and commonness of EICHMANN. There are numerous similarities with Bruno HAUPTMANN and his trial for the murder of the Lindberg baby. Perhaps the major difference is that this trial is being handled with dignity and restraint, and not as a national side-show.

Att: A/S - USC

13. On 2 May 1961 [ ] said that [ ] was short-handed as a result of having to have 12 full-time men assigned to the EICHMANN trial, to provide personal protection to the Germans who are in Israel from the West German Government, and to the defense counsel, SERVATIUS. [ ] remarked that this sort of

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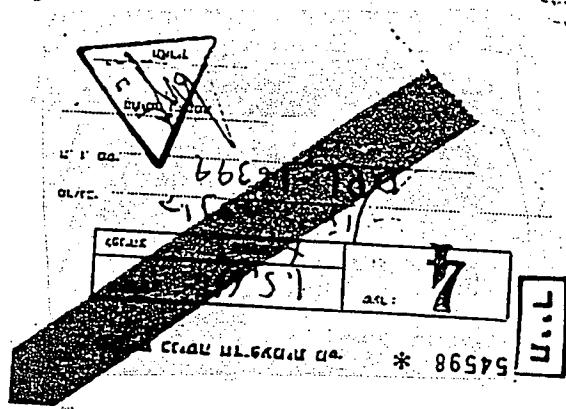
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a job really wasn't [ ] (except in the case of [ ]), but that the police were so ham-strung by the requirements of the trial that he couldn't refuse to help. [ ] asked if military forces couldn't be used at Beit Ha'am, for example, for perimeter guards, but [ ] answered that the IDF could not be given internal security functions.

14. During the visit to the press room mentioned above, [ ] asked [ ] for his opinion of SERVATIUS. [ ] who has spent a lot of time in and around Beit Ha'am, thought for a moment, and then replied that it sometimes seemed to him as if SERVATIUS were in it just for himself.

15. Upon his return from the v'it, [ ] reported pertinent portions of the above to the Charge and the press officer. The Charge said he had found the letter, but made no move to show it to [ ]. The press officer said no VOA people were at the trial, either overtly or covertly.

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